

# NavNews



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## QDR validates Navy forward presence

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) report emerged this week painting a bright picture for the Navy/Marine Corps team in the 21st century. The report calls for a military capable of shaping, responding and preparing for today and tomorrow . . . a military engaged in world affairs and a military relying upon forward presence.

In a world of uncertainty, forward presence is critical to promoting regional stability, preventing conflicts, reducing threats and deterring aggression in key regions on a day-to-day basis.

This is good news for the Navy, whose very core is based upon the tenet of forward presence. In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on May 21, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson stated that QDR validates many of the Navy's current principles and supports our people.

"We will be a leaner, but more capable force as we enter the 21st century and we will reshape ourselves at a pace which will ensure that

we do not compromise our readiness or commitment to our people," said the CNO.

The QDR highlights that the military's major strength is its men and women in uniform and the highly dedicated civilian work force, and the highest priority must be their welfare and that of their families. The Navy will continue to rely on its strongest asset - people - while pursuing the most advanced equipment and systems to support its mission.

The QDR maintains 12 aircraft carriers and 12 amphibious ready groups.

"We saw no need to reinvent the Navy for the QDR," Admiral Johnson stated. "The relevance of our forward deployed naval forces - centered around the 12 carrier battle groups and 12 amphibious ready groups - would be as much a reality in the future as today."

Maintaining that force structure is a visible reminder of the  
(continued on page 3)

## Chief of Naval Personnel: QDR cuts are manageable

courtesy of BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Personnel VADM Daniel T. Oliver says the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) recommendation to reduce the Navy by 18,000 personnel by 2003 is manageable and will not adversely impact career Sailors.

"It is important to realize that this won't happen overnight," Oliver noted. "This reduction is scheduled to be conducted over a

number of years and we'll phase it in to ensure this decision does not negatively affect our career Sailors."

Noting that the majority of the reductions will come from decommissioning ships and submarines, he said, "That's important because it allows us to reduce afloat as well as shore billets and not increase sea-shore rotation."

Oliver pointed to the past success of the

Bureau of Naval Personnel in taking care of Sailors during the drawdown and said the Navy will continue to maintain professional opportunity and quality of life for the career force. "At the height of the drawdown four years ago, we were taking cuts of 20,000 per year. This cut is relatively small, and I'm confident we'll handle it the way we've handled previous reductions, by keeping Sailors and their families our top priorities."

## CNO: Submarines important to warfare in the 21st century

courtesy of CNO Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson emphasized the importance of submarines to warfare in the 21st century when he spoke to the Submarine Technology Symposium, held recently at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

"Submarines in the next century will be called upon for a full range of warfighting missions," he said. The CNO told the audience that some of those missions will include covert Tomahawk Land Attack Missile strikes, undersea warfare, surface warfare, intelligence and warning, information warfare, special operations, covert mine warfare and strategic dominance.

"With this spectrum of options, there can be little doubt of the value and relevance of the submarine in enabling the joint land campaign of the 21st century," he added.

Admiral Johnson also praised the submarine community for its role in maintaining the technological superiority of our Navy's submarines.

"The submarine community has always been at the forefront of technology and innovation," he said.

But he warned that other nations are building first-rate submarines, incorporating the very best sensors, weapons and propulsion technologies.

"The threat from below is alive and well," Admiral Johnson said. "We must continue to invest in maintaining a submarine force second to none."

The annual symposium brings together many in the submarine community including scientists, designers, engineers and uniformed Navy submariners.

## Survey data determines VHA

by LT Lydia Robertson, BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Navy commands should receive the 1998 Variable Housing Allowance (VHA) survey in June and need to ensure their Sailors answer the surveys quickly and accurately.

Data from these surveys will be used to set VHA rates for FY98, according to NAVADMIN 115/97. Last year, only 69 percent of Sailors returned the survey. This return rate is higher than the DOD average, but a low return rate can result in inaccurate VHA rates, with subsequent impact on quality of life. A strong return rate does not guarantee a higher VHA rate, but it is the only way to identify and correct potential imbalances between what a Sailor's current housing allowance is and what it should be.

"The VHA survey is one program where Sailors can directly influence the amount of housing allowance they receive," said VADM Daniel T. Oliver, Chief of Naval Personnel. "By accurately completing and quickly returning this survey, you can help ensure the VHA rate for your area is set correctly. We must make the most of our current system by ensuring a near 100 percent survey return rate, with the most accurate data available."

Information that Sailors need to have available to accurately complete the survey include monthly rent or mortgage, average monthly utility costs, maintenance costs, condo or homeowners fees, renter's or hazard insurance, etc.

NAVADMIN 115/97 contains instructions for commands regarding completion deadline, return address for survey, and other guidelines.

## Summary of NAVADMINs

**NAVADMIN 115/97** 141812Z MAY 1997  
1998 Variable Housing Allowance (VHA) Survey

**NAVADMIN 116/97** 151724Z MAY 1997 -  
Acceptance of Gifts

**NAVADMIN 117/97** 191900Z MAY 1997 -  
Tuition Assistance (TA) Program

**NAVADMIN 118/97** 192120Z MAY 1997 -  
Transitional Compensation for Abused Family Members (TCAFM)

**NAVADMIN 119/97** 191222Z MAY 1997 -  
Implementation of Special Warfare Combatant Crewmember (SWCC) Enlisted Management Community (EMC)

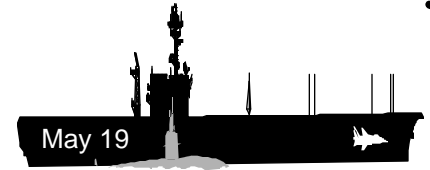
**NAVADMIN 120/97** 192218Z MAY 1997 -  
Active Limited Duty officer and Chief Warrant Officer Programs

**NAVADMIN 121/97** 192219Z MAY 1997 -  
Seaman to Admiral Program Eligibility and Application

**NAVADMIN 122/97** 202319Z MAY 1997 -  
FY99 In-Service Procurement for Appointment Under the Naval Reserve Limited Duty Officer and Chief Warrant Officer Programs

**NAVADMIN 123/97** 202320Z MAY 1997 -  
1997 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Call for Contributions

## Status of the Navy



### Personnel:

395,645 active duty  
211,118 civilians  
229,629 Ready Reserves:  
96,297 SELRES/133,332 IRR  
Aircraft: 4,732  
Ships: 350  
Underway: 213 ships (61%)  
Deployed: 119 ships (34%) 64,670 personnel  
Exercises: 8  
Port Visits: 10  
SSNs at Sea: 42 (58%)

### Carriers/Airwings at Sea:

USS *Constellation*/CVW 2: ops, Arabian Gulf  
USS *John F. Kennedy*/CVW 8: port visit, Marseilles, France  
USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW 3: transit, west. Atlantic  
USS *Independence*: Exer. COBRA GOLD 97, South China Sea  
USS *Abraham Lincoln*: local ops, east. Pacific  
USS *George Washington*: local ops, west. Atlantic  
USS *Nimitz*: COMPTUEX 97-2B, east. Pacific  
USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*: carrier quals., west. Atlantic

### LHAs/LHDs/LPHs/MCS at Sea:

USS *Boxer*/15 MEU: Exer. INFINITE MOONLIGHT 97, Red Sea  
USS *Kearsarge*/22nd MEU: ops, GUARDIAN RETRIEVAL  
USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: transit, west. Atlantic

USS *Belleau Wood*: Exer. COBRA GOLD 97, South China Sea

USS *Inchon*: port visit, Cannes, France

USS *Guam*: local ops, west. Atlantic

USS *Essex*: local ops, east. Pacific

USS *Tarawa*: local ops, east. Pacific

### Ships Assigned to the Middle East

**Force:** USS *Thorn*, USS *Nicholas*, USS *Fitzgerald*, USS *Paul F. Foster*, USS *Ingram*, USS *Ardent*, USS *Dextrous*

### Other Exercises/Operations:

Op. SOUTHERN WATCH, Arab. Gulf  
Maritime Interception Ops, Arab. Gulf  
Counter Drug Ops, Carib./east Pac.  
Ex. LINKED SEAS 97, eastern Atl.  
Ex. ILES D'OR, Mediterranean Sea

## NavNews



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# TR battle group and *Nassau* ARG hit homeports

NORFOLK (NNS) — More than 12,000 Sailors and Marines with the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) and USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) will return to their East Coast home ports and bases this week.

The Sailors and Marines have been deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Gulf and the western Atlantic Ocean for the past six months, and return home after they were relieved on station earlier this month by ships of the USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) CVBG and USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) ARG.

The battle group ships conducted operations in the Adriatic Sea and in the Arabian Gulf. The *Nassau* ARG conducted non-combatant evacuation operations in Albania and then moved to the coast of Zaire when tensions increased and developed a need for a force that could evacuate Americans, if needed.

“The ARG/MEU’s brilliant response to the quickly deteriorating conditions in Al-

bania and Zaire and the battle group’s presence in both the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf bear strong testimony to the efficacy of forward-deployed naval expeditionary forces,” said the battle group commander, RADM Gregory Johnson. “The most effective way to influence a developing crisis is through proactive forward presence rather than the reactive arrival of forces after a crisis has a life of its own. The task force, though the selfless dedication of its 12,000 Sailors and Marines, has been that

proactive force for the past six months.”

Ships of the battle group also conducted several multi-national exercises with Great Britain, France, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia. While the tempo of operations was high, Sailors and Marines also enjoyed liberty in Cartagena and Palma de Mallorca, Spain; Cannes, France; Naples, Italy; Antalya, Turkey; Haifa, Israel; Livorno, Italy; Corfu and Rhodes, Greece; and Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates.

## NOTABLE QUOTABLE

“If you don’t have that forward deployed presence, you have less of a voice, less of an influence.”

*Secretary of Defense William H. Cohen, in a press conference with military journalists May 15, 1997*

## QDR: forward presence

(continued from page 1)

importance of forward presence.

In his written statement to the Committee, Admiral Johnson said, “Our forward presence enables us to influence events as they develop and intervene rapidly and decisively should they escalate to conflict. Naval forces provide the ability to intervene in a crisis anywhere in the world.”

QDR underscores the importance of a modernization program that ensures tomorrow’s Navy is even more capable and ready than today. It secures the future of naval aviation by placing the most advanced aircraft of the time on our carrier decks. Today that is the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. When ready, it will be the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

Through QDR the Navy will be able to purchase enough Super Hornets to get us to the arrival of the next generation aircraft - the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

The Navy’s ship modernization program, which also remained a priority in QDR, ensures the United States can control the seas and project power ashore in peacetime and across the wide spectrum of contingencies from regional conflicts to two simultaneous major theater wars.

QDR recommends a force of 116 surface combatants. The Navy already planned, and the QDR supports, phasing out a number of

older, less-capable surface ships. New technology in the fleet will offset the difference in numbers. Additionally, the Navy is developing the surface combatant for the 21st century and preparing to bring on-line the new amphibious ship known as LPD-17.

The number of attack submarines required to carry out the strategy outlined by QDR is 50. Since the Navy already programmed to reduce this force from 73 to 52 by FY 2003, this actually represents only a two sub reduction. On the horizon for the submarine force is the entry of SEAWOLF, the fastest, quietest submarine in the fleet, and the new attack submarine, a ship designed with full-spectrum combat capability from strike warfare to special forces insertion.

Changes in force structure, advances in technology and streamlining of infrastructure will enable the Navy to make minimal reductions in manpower while preserving combat capabilities. QDR recommends a reduction of 18,000 active and 4,100 Reserve personnel and 8,400 civilians, to be phased in over a number of years, making the Navy a leaner, more focused service. Reductions will be carried out over the next six years.

Admiral Johnson continually emphasized the value of the Navy’s men and women in his written statement.

“As we have done in the past, we will carefully manage these reductions, ensuring we do the right things for our people at every step. We must control the pace of change to ensure we do not attempt to create savings by increasing the workload of individual Sailors.”

# Sailors prevent accident aboard USS *John F. Kennedy*

WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (NNS) — Quick action by two Sailors from Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 141 averted an accident on the flight deck of USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) during a recent Joint Task Force exercise off the North Carolina coast.

Aviation Structural Mechanic (Safety Equipment) 2nd Class Timothy Taber and AME Airman Marc Andrews were notified by an aircrew their EA-6B aircraft had an apparent liquid oxygen (LOX) gauge malfunction. When Andrews looked at the LOX bottles, he immediately realized that something was wrong.

Calling for Taber, Andrews pointed to a non-venting LOX

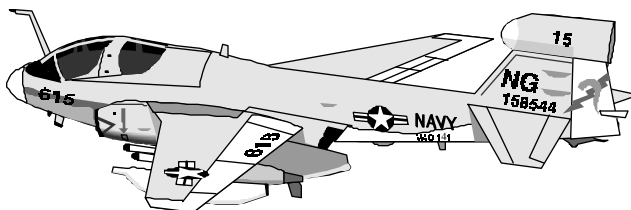
bottle, which was swelling and frosting over. Taber knew that it was only a matter of time before the LOX bottle would explode, endangering people and other aircraft. Nearby fuel hoses magnified the severity of the hazard. Taber directed Andrews to call a crash cart crew to help dispose of the bottle.

While the crash cart crew was on the way, Taber pulled the LOX bottle out of the aircraft and carried it to an emergency bomb disposal chute on the ship's starboard side.

Taber said later that he was afraid of the LOX bottle exploding

while shooting it over the side. "I knew it was just a matter of time before it blew," he said.

For his actions, Taber was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



## *Kilauea* helos assist disabled cargo vessel

JAVA SEA (NNS) — Two U.S. Navy helicopters from the ammunition supply ship USNS *Kilauea* provided food and fresh water to a disabled cargo vessel May 13 in the Java Sea south of Borneo.

Twelve boxes of food and 70 gallons of fresh water were transferred to the disabled vessel. According to the crew of the 124-meter motorized boat "*Maryam 7*," they had been stranded without food, water or power for about four days.

*Kilauea* contacted authorities in Singapore to notify the ship's agent in Ujong Pangdang, Indonesia, to send further assistance.

USNS *Kilauea* is homeported in Oakland, Calif., and is currently operating in the Western Pacific as a part of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

## USS *Grapple* deploys to Mediterranean Sea

NORFOLK (NNS) — USS *Grapple* (ARS 53) departed Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va., May 15 for a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

The 90-member recovery and salvage ship will relieve USNS *Powhatan* as the Navy's recovery and salvage ship in the Mediterranean.

*Grapple* was instrumental in the recovery of wreckage from TWA flight 800 after it crashed off the coast of Long Island, N.Y., last July.

## Reserve air squadron participates in SINKEX

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND, WASH. — Naval Reservists from Patrol Squadron (VP) 69 flew two P-3 aircraft from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., to NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, to take part in Combined Task Force-12 SINKEX.

The exercise, off the coast of Kauai, called for participating units to fire missiles and drop bombs on a decommissioned Navy destroyer, the ex-USS *Edwards* (DD 950).

Pilot LCDR Mike Sheedy, co-pilot LCDR Mike Stinson and Tactical Coordinator LCDR Joe Engman fired a live air-to-surface Harpoon missile that scored a perfect bull's eye hit to the center hull.

SINKEX also involved helo detachments, active-duty squadrons VP-1, 4 and 47, and a four-ship Canadian Task Group.

## USS *Stark* memorial service honors fallen shipmates

MAYPORT, Fla. (NNS) — A ceremony of remembrance to honor Sailors killed aboard USS *Stark* (FFG 31) ten years ago will be held May 16 at Mayport, Fla.'s, Memorial Park.

While on patrol in the Persian Gulf May 17, 1987, 37 Sailors died when the guided-missile frigate was struck by two Iraqi missiles. Despite the severe damage inflicted on the ship, the heroic efforts of *Stark*'s crew saved the ship. *Stark* is currently deployed to Southern Europe.

Mayport's Memorial Park was established Aug. 1, 1987, with the dedication of the *Stark* monument. Just a few steps away another

monument carries the names of 23 Sailors from USS *Saratoga* (CV 60) who lost their lives in a 1990 boat accident in Haifa, Israel.

## This week in Navy History

May 23, 1939 — Submarine USS *Squalus* sank off Portsmouth, N.H., in 240 feet of water, 26 lives lost. Ship was later refloated, renamed USS *Sailfish*, and served through World War II.



# Dental technician named VCNO Shore SOY

by JO1 Cathy Konn, National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) — Dental Technician 1st Class (SW) Hazelann Teamer, of National Naval Dental Center, Bethesda, Md., was recently selected as 1997 Vice Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year.

The Trinidad, West Indies, native joined the Navy in 1984 for the education and travel.

"Since I am from another country, this was a very exciting thing for me and going into the Navy gave me the opportunity to travel and see other places," she explains. "I joined the Navy mainly for the education, because my mother, who took care of seven children, could not afford it. Schooling was primary, it still is, but I also looked at it as a chance to do something for the Navy and be a positive influence on people. Of course it was also an opportunity to visit other countries and experience other cultures, too."

After recruit training in Orlando, Fla., Teamer was assigned to USS *Sierra* (AD-18) as an undesignated seaman.

"After I got aboard the ship and saw the different ratings, and interacted with other shipmates and saw how they did their jobs, I had the opportunity to see dental techs at work, and I had a definite interest there. That's when I decided to become a dental technician."

She attended Dental Technician "A" School in 1986, earned student of the month and graduated at the top of her class.

After completing "A" school, she was stationed at Branch Dental Clinic, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla. In 1989 she transferred to Branch Dental Clinic Rota, Spain.

Teamer left Rota in 1992 and attended Dental "C" School for dental administrative training. She was then assigned to USS

*Yellowstone* (AD 41) in 1993.

She reported aboard National Naval Dental Center (NNDC) Bethesda in February 1996. She is currently in charge of 16 enlisted personnel in the support of the command's comprehensive resident dental officer training program.

"It's challenging in that you have to deal with a lot of different personalities," she continues. "There's no chief, so I have the additional responsibility of bringing everyone together, no matter what the conflict, and still meet the day-to-day mission of the department. Overall, it's a good learning experience. Even if I influence one person, I feel like I'm making a difference."

Teamer will now compete in the CNO Shore Activities Sailor of the Year competition against four other shore Sailors from around the Navy. Winners will be announced June 5th at Naval Station Anacostia.

## BUMED initiates TRICARE ombudsman outreach program

by Jan Davis, BUMED Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — To get the information to where the people are, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) is starting a TRICARE ombudsman program to help Navy and Marine Corps members understand the TRICARE system.

The ombudsman program will kick off in

June at Jacksonville, Fla.; Bangor, Wash.; Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Yuma, Ariz.; and Corpus Christi, Texas.

"The program is being set up as a result of the feedback we've gotten from Navy and Marine Corps people — our customers," said CDR Pat Denzer, who heads the program for BUMED. "They said they needed to get TRICARE information in a convenient way. We're working to make it as easy as possible for them."

Denzer said that the hospital commanding officer at each site will work with base commanders to determine where health benefits advisors — experts on TRICARE — should locate to be convenient to

their customers. For example, at some sites, the advisor may be located at commissaries or exchanges several times a week.

BUMED will test the ombudsman program for six months, and depending on the results of customer surveys, may expand it to other bases.

TRICARE is the Department of Defense's new health care plan that improves access and offers choices for care to beneficiaries.



### HC-4 nominated for DOD Maintenance Award

by Seaman Brenda Desy, HC-4 Public Affairs

SIGONELLA, Sicily (NNS) — Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 4 (HC-4) has been nominated by the Chief of Naval Operations for the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Award.

The annual award recognizes outstanding military units for significant maintenance achievements.

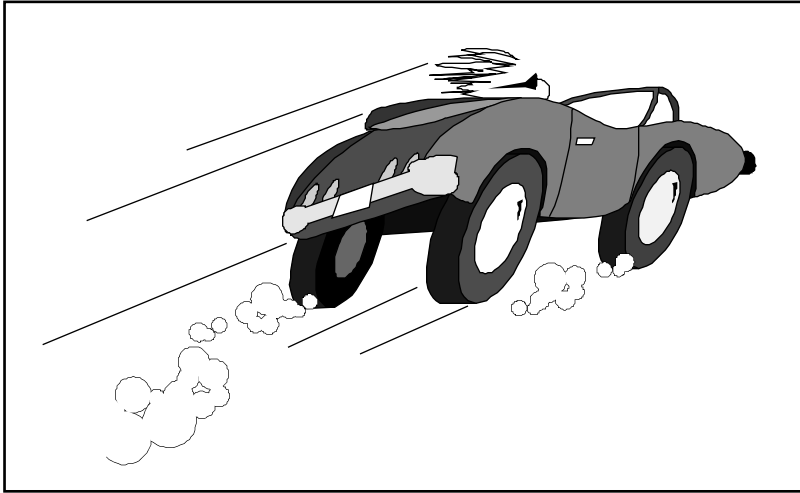
"What is so great about this award, is that any other award we compete for is with much smaller groups. This one was with the entire Navy and now the entire Defense Department," said CDR Chris Real, commanding officer of HC-4. "It's the biggest maintenance award we can receive."

HC-4 has provided support to their customers from Dublin, Ireland, to the Arabian Gulf. In FY96, HC-4 moved 10,249 passengers, 1,669,100 pounds of mail and 4,905,100 pounds of cargo in 3,279.9 flight hours.

# New guides to buying a safer car

courtesy of U.S. Dept. of Transportation

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced May 14 new initiatives to provide consumers with additional and improved safety information to help make motor vehicle purchase decisions.



"Safety is very high on the list of concerns that consumers have when choosing a new car. We want to help with the information they need to make good safety choices," said NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D.

The agency announced the release of a new edition of the popular "Buying a Safer New Car" brochure. This year, for the first time, the brochure includes ratings for side-impact tests and now provides consumers with relative safety information on the two most common injury-causing crash events — frontal and side impacts.

"Buying a Safer New Car" is produced jointly by NHTSA, the American Automobile Association (AAA) and the Federal Trade Commission. It also includes information on a variety of other safety features including air bags (frontal and side), antilock brakes, traction control, and advanced seat belt features.

Copies of the brochure are available from NHTSA's toll-free Auto Safety Hot-line at (800) 424-9393 or from local AAA offices.

## New spouse employment program at SUBASE New London

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) — A new military spouse employment program kicks off May 28 at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

Carolyn Becraft, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense for Personnel Support, Families and Education will be the keynote speaker at a breakfast announcing the program. A military spouse and advocate of military spouse employment programs, Becraft will speak on "The military spouse: Valuable business and economic asset."

New London's pilot program, Military Association for Professional Spouses, will help highly qualified but underemployed or discouraged military spouses in the civilian workplace. The program

will also support employment and career development for military spouses who have a hard time building a stable career because of the mobile nature of the military lifestyle.

The program is the result of the Department of Defense's Employment Demonstration Project (EDP). A one-time incentive, the EDP will provide funds to military bases that develop innovative programs to help military spouses in the civilian workplace. New London's project was one of ten selected from a field of 34 applicants.

## Groton gets new repair dry dock

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) — The Medium Auxiliary Repair Dry Dock *Oak Ridge* (ARDM 1) arrived at its new home port of Groton, Conn., May 19. It was previously assigned to Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.

*Oak Ridge* replaces the Auxiliary Repair Dry Dock *Waterford* (ARD 5) which will deactivate in September.

These special vessels provide logistic dry-docking support to Atlantic Fleet submarines. Unlike *Waterford*, *Oak Ridge* can accommodate Los Angeles-class attack submarines.

## USNS *Niagara Falls* assists disabled fishing vessel

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Navy combat stores ship USNS *Niagara Falls* provided assistance to a disabled fishing vessel May 14 in the Celebes Sea, south of Mindanao, Philippines.

Twenty-eight crew members on board the 40-foot motorized boat reported that they had been stranded without power for 15 days and only had a one-day supply of food and water.

USNS *Niagara Falls* is homeported in Guam. It is currently operating in the Western Pacific as a part of the 7th Fleet.

# Cobra Gold '97 underway off Thailand

by JOSN Joseph L. Rehana, USS *Independence* Public Affairs

PATTAYA BEACH, Thailand (NNS) — USS *Independence* (CV- 62) joined Exercise Cobra Gold '97 with the Royal Thai Armed Forces May 15 after a five-day port visit to Pattaya Beach, Thailand.

One of the largest exercises involving U.S. forces in the Pacific Command, Cobra Gold '97 is a nine-day bilateral exercise that will strengthen the working relationship between Thai and U.S. forces. It includes joint-combined air operations; combined naval operations; amphibious operations; and special

operations with elements of U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

More than 10,000 U.S. Navy personnel and more than 1,700 Royal Thai Navy (RTN) personnel are participating.

"This is part of our on-going commitment to maintain a presence in the Pacific Rim region in which we gain valuable training and provide Thai Forces with a better understanding of how we operate," said LCDR Michael K. Leonard, from *Independence's* operations division. "Exercises like Cobra Gold let our allies know we're here to back-up and support national interests."

This is the 16th Cobra Gold exercise and the second in which a Thai General has been appointed commander of the exercise combined-joint task force.

U.S. units joining *Independence* in Cobra Gold '97 are USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), USS *Fife* (DD 991), USS *Curtis* (FFG 38), USNS *Guadalupe* (TAO 200) and an amphibious ready group made up of USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3), USS *Dubuque* (LPD 8) and USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD 43).

The RTN is scheduled to have 18 naval vessels participating. Several other Pacific nations will observe the exercise.

## Hawaii reduces quarantine time for incoming pets

by JO1 Rita Bargeloh, Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) — The "Rovers" and "Puffs" bound for Hawaii will only be separated from their families 30 days for quarantine purposes instead of the four-months previously required.

Hawaii quarantine rules, implemented in 1912, are the strictest in the United States, and as a result the island has remained rabies-free. But many pet owners complained about the

expense and felt the four-month quarantine was excessive.

After months of public hearings and scrutiny by veterinarians, medical experts and government officials, Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano approved the shorter quarantine period as proposed by the state Board of Agriculture.

"The new rules will provide Hawaii an added measure of protection against rabies necessary to keep our state safe by allowing

for a combined use of serological testing and vaccinations never before allowed under the old rules," Cayetano said.

The shorter quarantine period will also save pet owners hundreds of dollars. Under the 120-day rule, pet owners paid \$600 per dog and \$564 per cat for housing, food and general care. If they meet all the requirements for the 30-day quarantine they will pay \$210 per dog and \$195 per cat, plus fees of about \$100 for registration, health records, microchips and rabies blood tests.

To qualify for the shorter quarantine, pets must meet specific requirements that include a minimum of two rabies vaccinations, a state-issued microchip implant to ensure identification and confirm vaccinations, two rabies blood tests and a health certificate from an accredited veterinarian.

Other vaccinations are required, including canine distemper virus, canine parvovirus, feline panleukopenia virus and feline calicivirus.

Forty percent of the approximately 125,000 animals that entered Hawaii since the quarantine was established belong to military personnel.

Information on the new quarantine procedures will soon be available on the Naval Base Pearl Harbor website — <<http://www.hawaii.navy.mil>>.

More detailed information and microchip order forms are available by mail from the Hawaii Agriculture Department's Division of Animal Industry: 99-941 Halawa Valley Street, Aiea, HI 96701, (808) 483-7100, Fax (808) 483-7110.

## NCIS Special Agent National Law Enforcement Officer of the Month

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Special Agent Joanne Jensen, of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), was honored May 12 for her selection by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial as one of their Officers of the Month. Jensen was the organization's January 1997 selectee.

Jensen is a 13-year veteran of NCIS and one of eight officers recognized at a reception held in conjunction with the group's 9th Annual Candlelight Ceremony. The highly decorated agent is considered by superiors to be one NCIS' most outstanding.

In one noteworthy case, Jensen had been interviewing Robert Russell for about an hour when she became convinced that he had killed his wife, a Marine Corps captain. It took Jensen, working with another federal agent, two years to develop the case.

Although the agents never located the victim's body and lacked other physical evidence, Russell was taken to trial in 1991 and convicted of first degree murder. It is the only time in our country's history that a murder conviction has been achieved without a body or other physical evidence.

Jensen has a 99 percent conviction rate. Supervisor Ron Oliver describes her as, "extremely conscientious, hard working and tenacious. Joanne is an individual who doesn't give up. She is an outstanding agent, and I'm lucky to have her."

The National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial is dedicated to the more than 14,300 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Engraved on the Memorial are the names of 31 law enforcement officers from the various branches of the Armed Services.

# Drinking/driving/death: Murder = jail for life

WASHINGTON (NNS) — A North Carolina driver, under the influence of alcohol and painkillers, killed two college students. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole. He may or may not count himself lucky: the other option was the death sentence.

That decision is sending Americans this message: if you drink and drive, have an accident and kill someone, you could find yourself spending the rest of your life in prison or worse.

Your green ID card won't protect you, as you may be tried in both the military and the civil courts for DUI/DWI. In the military, we all know what we face: possible reduction in rate or rank, loss of pay, brig time and even a less-than-honorable discharge.

The consequences of drinking and driving are often permanent. According to the Naval Safety Center, as of May 12, 1997, alcohol-related motor vehicle mishaps claimed the lives of 18 Sailors and seven Marines. These

lives are over, done, finished. No deployments, education, family vacations or old age.

Have \$7,000 laying around in loose cash? According to a report from North Dakota, that is the average cost paid to cover a DUI charge. Most Sailors don't have enough leave time on the books to cover a jail term. And if you think your insurance costs as an 18-24 year-old male are high with a good driving record, you can't afford the cost of insurance after a DUI/DWI conviction.

Consider this: an insurance agent in Bismarck, N.D., said a 29-year-old woman who pays \$265.60 every six months to insure a six-year-old car can expect her premium to jump to \$660.22 after a DUI. That's if the company agrees to insure her, at all.

In Atlanta, DUI/DWI penalties for a first time offense include up to a one-year probationary period, 80-hours of community service, mandatory attendance of a DUI/DWI class, alcohol evaluation and fines ranging from \$500-\$1,000. And what about the criminal conviction? That remains a part of your record for life.

Many states are lowering the bar for the definition of DUI/DWI from 0.1 percent blood alcohol content (BAC) to 0.08 percent.

By many measures, if you drink and drive, it is becoming more likely that you will pay and pay more. If your drinking and driving results in death to someone, you very well may have your life to think about it . . . in your cell.

## Name that ship!

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Navy's newest oceanographic survey ship needs a name, and a team of American students will name it. The Oceanographer of the Navy is hosting a name-that-ship competition on its web site. The address is: <<http://oceanographer.navy.mil>>.

The contest is open to teams of American students in grades K-12. Each team will have to research the background of their proposed name and build a convincing case as to why it should be adopted. The finished project will be judged on imagination, creativity and evidence of educational value. Suggestions can include the names of former vessels used in exploration, discovery, research, adventure or people whose work links them to the oceans.

The Navy will announce the winning name in May 1998. This date coincides with the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution to make 1998 the International Year of the Oceans. Representatives of the winning team will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and the grand winner will get a trip to the new ship's christening and launch.

For more specifics and entry information, check the Web at <<http://oceanographer.navy.mil>>.

## NAVY-MARINE CORPS NEWS

Navy-Marine Corps News is a videotaped newscast generated for broadcast to Navy-Marine Corps fleet and shore units. The next Navy-Marine Corps News (program #719) includes the following stories:

- Forward presence and the Navy's QDR plan
- CNO/CNP: "Don't worry."
- DOD celebrates Armed Forces Day
- SEALs/Mark V boats get rave reviews
- Damage Control Olympics in Norfolk
- FOCUS ON THE FLEET: USS *Independence*
- Motor Rewind course trains Sailors
- Sailors compete in Diego Garcia extreme race
- Sailors "Paint Your Heart Out" in Virginia Beach
- MOVIE CALL: "Murder at 1600"

We need your input on Navy-Marine Corps News, so call our FEEDBACK LINE at (202) 433-6108 or DSN 288-6108 and leave a message or send us E-Mail at: [nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil)

If you have distribution questions contact Mr. John Morrissey at (202) 433-5844 or DSN 288-5844.

If you have items that you think would be of interest to the Navy or Marine Corps worldwide, please submit your original video contributions on BetaCam, Hi-8, Super VHS, or 3/4 inch videotape to the nearest Navy Broadcasting Fleet Support Detachment or send by fastest means possible to our field producer at: Navy/Marine Corps News, Naval Media Center, Bldg. 168, 2701 South Capitol St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20373-5819 (202) 433-6275, DSN 288-6275.